



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
2 NAVY ANNEX
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-1775

IN REPLY REFER TO:

MCO 3710.4A
ASM-51
10 Apr 03

MARINE CORPS ORDER 3710.4A

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: WAIVERS TO DUTY INVOLVING FLYING DENIED (DIFDEN)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 3710.7S

1. Situation. The current policy on the issuance of waivers to DIFDEN status is not consistent with the reference.
2. Mission. To promulgate changes to the policy on the issuance of waivers to DIFDEN status as described in the reference.
3. Execution - Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations.
 - a. Commander's Intent.

Past DIFDEN waiver requests, with favorable endorsements from the aircraft reporting custodians, were approved on a "not-to-interfere" basis. The current policy contradicts the reference; hence this order provides clarification on changes relative to waiver policy.

- b. Concept of Operations. Effective immediately:

(1) All DIFDEN waivers shall be closely controlled and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

(2) Per the reference, flight waivers may be granted for a single flight, a series of flights involving an exercise or test program, or for gaining familiarity with selected operational weapons systems and procedures. Flight waivers may also be granted on a tour basis where an aviator's flight experience may be utilized periodically during the duty assignment. Particular attention will be placed on the aircrew needs of the reporting aircraft custodian and in accordance with the reference.

(3) Flights conducted under DIFDEN waiver status shall not exempt aircrew from Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS) refresher training as prescribed in appropriate Training and Readiness (T&R) publications, nor shall they update the MCO currency date of last flight in model while in DIFOPS status unless all required minimums are achieved.

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A: Approved for public release;
distribution is unlimited.

3710.4A
10 Apr 03

(4) Aircrew may be exempted from FRS refresher training if the following conditions are met:

(a) OPNAV minimum annual and semi-annual flight time minimums for the 12 months prior to returning to Duty Involving Flight Operations (DIFOPS) status;

(b) perform a minimum of 50 percent of OPNAV minimum flight time requirements in applicant's fleet Type/Model/Series (T/M/S) aircraft;

(c) OPNAV instrument and NATOPS evaluation requirements in applicant's T/M/S aircraft.

(5) Commands are not required to provide any flight time (including OPNAV minimums) to aircrew on DIFDEN status. Flights are to be allowed on a not-to-interfere basis only.

4. Administration.

a. Documentation.

(1) Requests for waivers of DIFDEN status must be forwarded to CMC (ASM) via chain of command. Applicants shall submit Administrative Action Form (NAVMC 10274) and include:

(a) current billet assignment, Table of Organization and line number;

(b) Aviation Service Entry Date (ASED) and cumulative Operational flight (OPFLY) time;

(c) the relevant type/model/series aircraft;

(d) aircraft custodian's RUC;

(e) justification/rationale for the request;

(f) a positive endorsement from the applicant's chain of command;

(g) a positive endorsement from the aircraft reporting custodian's chain of command, which will include a full explanation of the anticipated frequency of flight and justification for flying the applicant.

b. Billet Justification. If the above criteria is met, and more than 5 flights per month are required for the performance of the applicants

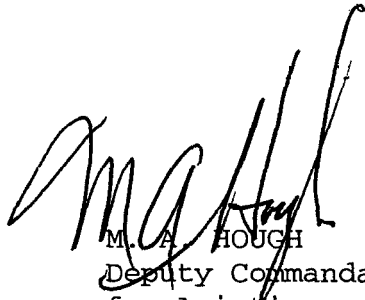
MCO 3710.4A

10 Apr 03

duties, the applicant's parent command should consider requesting a change to the classification of the table of organization line number from DIFDEN to DIFOPS.

5. Command and Signal.

- a. Signal. This order cancels MCO 3710.4.
- b. Command. This Order is applicable to the Marine Corps Reserve.



M. A. HOUGH
Deputy Commandant
for Aviation

DISTRIBUTION: PCN 10203460200

Copy to: 7000099/144, 8145001